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Paul's Proposals Included in Airline Security Bill *Provisions to Arm Pilots, Criminalize Air Piracy Adopted by House Leadership*

Washington, DC: The U.S. House of Representatives is scheduled to vote this week on two proposals introduced by Congressman Ron Paul, both of which are now included in a larger air security bill.

In the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks, Paul originally introduced legislation that would permit airlines to arm pilots. The bill generated tremendous public support, prompting congressional leaders to adopt a pilot gun provision in the House bill.

"I'm gratified that Congress has recognized the need for this common sense approach to airline safety," Paul stated. "Commercial pilots, including several pilot unions, overwhelmingly favor having the ability to defend themselves and their passengers against future terrorist acts. Congress, the administration, and the FAA should listen to the actual pilots who ultimately stand in harm's way in the event of another hijacking attempt. Pilots need firearms as a last line of defense in the cockpit."

Paul also introduced legislation which expands the legal definition of piracy to include airline hijacking, which the House bill similarly adopts. "I want air hijackers to be subject to harsh piracy laws," Paul continued. "Severe criminal punishments, including possible death penalties, are appropriate for terrorist who use planes as weapons."

The House is scheduled to vote on the airline security bill Thursday.

